

# Clarifier

A Newsletter for and by Members of the Illinois Water Environment Association

## PLANT PROFILE



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When WEFTEC 2015 came to town, IWEA had strong representation, including the participation of the IWEA Sewer Rats in the Operators Challenge. For more information on how the team did, see page 11. For more pictures from WEFTEC, see pages 4 & 5.

## WEF Awards Presented at WEFTEC

By Lou Storino, IWEA President

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) proudly announced the 2015 WEF Awards recipients, honoring two Illinoisans at the recent WEFTEC meeting: the Honorable Laurel Prussing, Mayor of Urbana, IL and Commissioner Frank Avila, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Both received the WEF Public Officials Award.

The annual awards program recognizes individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the water environment profession, WEF, and its Member Associations.

Recipients include individuals and organizations that contribute to the sustainability of water resources and make

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a profound impact on the future through involvement with water professionals and education.

Mayor Laurel Prussing is the first woman mayor of Urbana. She was first elected in 2005 and has been re-elected twice. Mayor Prussing earned a B.A. in Economics from Wellesley College, a M.A. from Boston University and is near completion of a Ph.D. in Economics (Public Finance) from the University of Illinois.

Mayor Prussing has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving and protecting the water environment and preserving Urbana's natural resources. She has inaugurated and seen the completion of the Boneyard Creek Master Plan, a project that enhanced the physical appearance of the creek through naturalization, landscaping, bank stabilization and other amenities, while maintaining the creek's primary drainage function. She has fought to protect the Mahomet Aquifer, her city's primary source of drinking water. Mayor Prussing has also focused on improving Urbana's stormwater management and infrastructure.

Commissioner Frank Avila was elected to the MWRD Greater Chicago Board of Commissioners in 2002 and was re-elected in 2008 and 2014. He is the Chairman of the Engineering Committee, Finance Committee, the Maintenance and Operations Committee and the Public Health and Welfare Committee. He is also Vice-Chairman of the Affirmative Action Committee and the Industrial Waste/Water Pollution Committee.



Mayor Laurel Prussing



Frank Avila

Commissioner Avila works to protect the health and safety of the public and protect the quality of water in the Chicago area waterways. His top priorities include cost-effective wastewater treatment, flood prevention, and the regulation of waste disposal to protect our waterways by eliminating toxic chemicals from the source to prevent endocrine disruption.

Commissioner Avila received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois-Champaign in 1961 and his M.S. in Finance from the University of Arizona-Tucson in 1968. He owned a civil engineering company, Avila & Associates, Inc. and practiced engineering and land surveying for more than 45 years.

## Welcome New Members!

By Frederick Wu, Membership Chair

### SEPTEMBER

**Craig Blanchette**, *Aqua Illinois*  
**Hao Chen**  
**Michael Colby**  
**Robert Czernek**  
**Joe Dinkel**  
**Amanda Flegel**  
**Ivonne Friday**, *Bloomington Township*  
**Timothy Hopkins**, *Aqua Bio Technologies*  
**Jayashree Jayaraj**  
**Diana Kapanzhi**  
**Marcy Knysz**  
**Amanda Lardizabal**  
**Dabney Lyles**  
**John Robak**, *Greeley & Hansen LLC*

**Jay Shetty**  
**Seth Snyder**  
**Laura Southworth**  
**Yijie Tian**

### AUGUST

**Aubree Basso**  
**Michael Cunningham**  
**Douglas Erickson**  
**Charles Jackson**  
**Michael Ott**, *Strand Associates*  
**Shane Remmert**, *Crawford, Murphy and Tilly*  
**Paul Ruscko**, *HR Green*  
**Mark Wagstaff**, *M3 Engineering Group, PC*  
**George Zurmely**, *City of Streator*

### JULY

**Ambria Benesch**  
**Nichole Brown**, *Baxter Woodman*  
**Fatima Farooqi**  
**Jason Jones**  
**Sanjay Kottapalli**  
**Emma Lamblin**  
**Lillian Oliver**  
**Daniel Reynolds**  
**Paul Roots**  
**Zack Sasnow**  
**Kruti Sutaria**  
**Isabel Trumbull**  
**Anthony Warmack**